

time to contribute to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

#### WELCOMING KING MOHAMMED VI

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. PAYNE and I welcome King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the United States and wish him well during his visit. We strongly urge His Majesty to uphold and implement his nation's agreements regarding the conflict over the Western Sahara. In addition, we urge His Majesty to uphold UN Security Council Resolution 1541 as a tribute to former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who promoted international legality and justice while responding to the true long-term interests of both parties concerned in this conflict. His Majesty's support for the former U.N. Special Envoy Baker's Peace Plan would be the best contribution to peace and stability in the region. In addition, upholding the Peace Plan would demonstrate the effectiveness of the pursuit of national aspirations through non-violence in the greater Middle East, a region that has been the target of much violence.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members sent a letter to President Bush requesting that during his meeting with the King, he strongly encourage His Majesty to implement the United Nations Settlement Plan in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and lasting resolution to the conflict over Western Sahara. The letter welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1541 adopted April 29, 2004, which reaffirmed support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara devised by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy, James Baker, and shared deep regret over the departure of Mr. Baker and the circumstances that led to his resignation.

In addition, the letter welcomed the confidence-building measures taken by the Polisario Front which released a further 643 Moroccan POWs since July 2003; the number of POWs the Polisario has liberated since 1991 now totals 1,760. However, the Members of Congress expressed their regret that the Government of King Mohammed VI has not reciprocated in a commensurate way. The fact that the Sahrawis have opted for non-violence in the affirmation of their identity and have respected the terms of the cease-fire signed in 1991 between their representative and Morocco, is telling in terms of who is committed to settlement of the conflict.

Further, the letter expressed great concern that if the conflict between these two parties is left unresolved, it has the potential to disrupt peace and stability in the Maghreb region, thus threatening the interests of the United States. The Members expressed that the United States should use its unique influence in that region to press the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front to agree to the Peace Plan and to implement it under the supervision of the United Nations. Although U.S. attention is primarily focused, as it should be, on Iraq and on the war against terrorism, the

letter underscores the concern of the Members that the Western Sahara conflict needs to be addressed urgently and fairly to the benefit of the peoples of the region and in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, successful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara will provide a signal to the Broader Middle East and North African region that in the 21st century there are successful alternatives to violence in the pursuit of national aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, we again extend our welcome to His Majesty and strongly urge him not to stand in the way of progress towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON REMEMBRANCE AND THE "SANDS OF REMEMBRANCE" MEMORIAL AT NORMANDY BEACH

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the White House Commission on Remembrance and the Sands of Remembrance Memorial constructed this past Memorial Day at Normandy beach during the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

The White House Commission on Remembrance was established by Congress (PL 106-579) in 2000 and is an independent government agency honoring America's fallen, recognizing our men and women who have served our nation, and recognizing the veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who continue to serve our country.

The Commission also promotes the values of Memorial Day throughout the year.

In 2002, Carmella LaSpada, the Director of the White House Commission on Remembrance and sand sculptors John Gowdy (American), and Dale Murdock (Canadian) discussed an idea: to create, from the very sand on which blood was shed for freedom, a life-size and historically accurate sand sculpture on the Normandy Beach to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Thus, the "Sands of Remembrance" was born.

So from May 25 through May 29 a team of award-winning sand sculptors from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom began an effort to create one of the most memorable and beautiful artistic memorials dedicated to one of the most heroic events in our history. To honor D-Day's fallen heroes in a symbolic and tangible way, this sand sculpture was an act of remembrance. This sculpted sand served as a touching and unique reminder of the sacrifices made for freedom to those who visited the memorial.

The team of award-winning sand sculptors created a 30 x 30 life-size sand sculpture of the D-Day landing commemorating the 60th Anniversary of that historic event. Dear Abby and Home Box Office (HBO) partnered with the White House Commission on Remembrance for the "Sands of Remembrance" memorial, initiated by the Commission.

Some of the reactions of those who witnessed the sculpture were:

"It brought tears to my eyes."

"So inspiring."

"It makes you feel gratitude."

"It makes you think."

"Spectacular!"

"Superb!"

"Stupendous!"

"Awesome!"

"Astonishing!"

"Incredible!"

"I've never seen anything like it!"

"Magnificent."

"Marvelous."

"How could this have been done? It's unbelievable."

"What a tribute!"

"It's so personal and emotional."

"It touches the mind and the heart."

"No other commemoration for those who died has so much meaning."

"I feel the presence of those who died."

For the sculpture, fifty tons of sand from the five landing beaches: Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword, and Utah, depicted soldiers landing on the Normandy Beaches.

For the first time in history sand sculptors John Gowdy and Matthew Deibert (United States); Mark Anderson and Edward Dudley (United Kingdom); and Dale Murdock (Canada) created a historically accurate sand sculpture. These sculptors worked for six days, putting in approximately 10 hours each day to create the sculpture. Throngs of thousands from many countries viewed the sculpture as they attended ceremonies marking the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Of the international community of visitors that visited the "Sands of Remembrance", a Russian woman said emotionally, "It brought tears to my eyes."

The sand sculpture, located in Vierville-sur-Mer on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, was dedicated on May 30 and remained on exhibit through June 8.

I want to thank the White House Commission on Remembrance, the sculptors who made the Sands of Remembrance a reality, and of course, the men and women who made freedom a reality on the shores of Normandy 60 years ago.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. PHILBIN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a little more than a week ago, Edward J. Philbin retired as Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Clinton, Massachusetts marking the end of an extraordinary thirty-five year career in public education. As a foreign language teacher, department chair, high school principal and administrator, Ed Philbin earned a well-deserved reputation for passionate and tireless devotion to the education and development of children and young people. On June 24, 2004, a reception attended by more than 200 of his colleagues, family members, former students and friends was held at the Clinton Town Hall to honor his lasting contributions to the communities of Clinton and Worcester. Due to votes scheduled here in the House of Representatives, I was unable to attend that reception to personally express my great respect, deep